



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
686 CUSHING RD
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND 02841-1207

MEMORANDUM FOR COLLEGE OF NAVAL COMMAND AND STAFF

Subj: STRATEGY AND POLICY COURSE

1. During your first trimester at the Naval War College, you will study the Strategy and Policy portion of the curriculum. It is designed to increase your ability to think analytically and critically about how military power has been and can be used to attain a nation's political objectives. Because we want you to see current problems in perspective and to be able to deal with future problems not yet foreseen, we use a series of historical case studies to give you the mental tools necessary for strategic analysis from trireme warfare to the most recent theories of nuclear deterrence and escalation dominance in order to deepen your understanding of the role that military strategy should play in the formulation and execution of successful policy.

2. Should you wish to get an idea of what you will be doing with us, the best work for you to read now is Carl von Clausewitz's On War. It will be the backbone of your course: although not exactly bedtime reading, it is a profound book explores all the deepest issues underlying military strategy and will introduce you to strategic analysis. If you return the advanced reading request form (via fax or mail), we shall be happy to send you a copy of On War so that you can steal a march on the course. In case you would like to read beyond Clausewitz, we suggest the following volumes (though these you will have to buy or borrow yourself):

Strassler, Robert B. The Landmark Thucydides: A Comprehensive Guide to the Peloponnesian War. New York: Free Press, 1996.

Mahan, Alfred Thayer. The Influence of Seapower Upon History, 1660-1783. New York: Hill and Wang, 1957.

GEORGE W. BAER
Chairman
Strategy & Policy Department

ADVANCED READING REQUEST
ATTN: CODE 2111 or 2112

PLEASE FORWARD THE ADVANCE READING FOR STRATEGY
AND POLICY TO ME AT THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

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